

Message Text

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ANKARA ADANA AND IZMIR 11 OCT 74.

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SUBJ: LOCAL JUSTICE PARTY LEADERS' OBSERVATIONS ON DEMIREL,
PARTY CONGRESSES

REF: ISTANBUL 2711, A-35, A-31

1. SUMMARY: ISTANBUL JUSTICE PARTY (JP) LEADERS DISCUSS
DEMIREL'S CHANCES OF RETAINING LEADERSHIP; LOCAL ORGANIZATION
PREPARES FOR OCT. 13 PROVINCIAL CONGRESS. END SUMMARY

2. ISTANBUL JUSTICE PARTY (JP) CHAIRMAN NUMAN UZUN AND
PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER ORHAN CEMAL FERSOY TELL
US DEMIREL FAIRLY WELL ASSURED OF REELECTION AT OCT. 21 JP
GENERAL CONGRESS. DESPITE CHALLENGES FROM SENATOR KAMRAN
INAN, PARLAMENTARIAN MURAT BAYRAK AND PROFESSOR ORHAN OGUZ,
AND CALLS FOR "NEW BLOOD", DEMIREL RETAINS A SUFFICIENTLY FIRM
GRIP ON JP PARTY MACHINERY TO WIN MAJORITY VOTE, THOUGH WITH
SLIMMER MARGIN THAN IN PAST. FERSOY, WHO IS CLOSE TO DEMIREL,
SAID JP LEADER UNHAPPY OVER OGUZ CANDIDACY, SINCE HE CONSIDERED
HIM LOYAL SUPPORTER. OGUZ'S DECLARATION WILL ALTER DEMIREL'S
REPORTED PLANS TO PROMOTE HIM TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.

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3. ON LOCAL SCENE, WITH 16 OUT OF 19 COUNTY (ILCE) CONGRESSES COMPLETE, ISTANBUL JP ORGANIZATION PREPARING FOR OCT. 13 PROVINCIAL CONGRESS. WHILE CANDIDATES FOR CHAIRMANSHIP NOT FORMALLY ANNOUNCED, FERSOY APPEARS TO BE PRINCIPAL CONTENDER, SINCE THE CHAIRMANSHIP WOULD GIVE HIM GOOD SPRINGBOARD TO REENTER ACTIVE POLITICS AFTER HIS DEFEAT IN 1973 FOR REELECTION AS A JP PARLIAMENTARIAN. INCUMBENT CHAIRMAN UZUN IS A RELATIVELY OBSCURE BUSINESSMAN WHO HAS BEEN A LOYAL IF UNIMAGINATIVE PARTY WORKHORSE, AND WAS ELEVATED TO THE CHAIRMANSHIP AFTER FARUK ILGAZ STEPPED DOWN IN DISGUST OVER DEMIREL'S LACKLUSTER PERFORMANCE IN 1973 ELECTION CAMPAIGN. HE WOULD BE AT DISADVANTAGE AGAINST FERSOY, WHO GAINED FAME AS LAWYER FOR EX-PRES. BAYAR, EX-PRIMIN MENDERES AND EX-FONMIN ZORLU AT YASSIADA TRIALS, AND HAS EXPERIENCE AND PERSONALITY NECESSARY TO RECEIVE FLAGGING LOCAL JP ORGANIZATION.

4. COMMENT: ABOVE OBSERVATIONS ON DEMIREL'S CONTROL OVER PARTY ORGANIZATION SUPPORT SIMILAR INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM OTHER JP SOURCES (SEE REFERENCES). WHILE DEMIREL'S POPULARITY AMONG PUBLIC IS QUESTIONABLE, EVEN INDIVIDUALS WHO NO LONGER SUPPORT HIM FEEL HE IS STILL POWERFUL ENOUGH WITHIN OWN PARTY TO RETAIN JP LEADERSHIP.
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